

POLICY



Date adopted: 30/05/2017
File no: 142472-2
Minute number: 148/2017

Policy title: NATURE STRIP MOWING
Directorate: COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE
Branch: PARKS
Policy objective: To maintain the amenity and public safety of footpaths and nature strips throughout the City.

Policy scope:

1. This policy applies to all property owners and property occupiers throughout the City.
2. This policy seeks to achieve the policy objective by specifying administrative procedures to be adopted by Council which will encourage property owners or occupiers to mow their frontage footpaths or nature strips such that the footpath or nature strip is maintained to a standard that enhances the amenity of their property, and of the City, and does not create any potential for a public safety risk.

Definitions:

Not applicable.

Policy statement:

1. Upon receiving a complaint regarding an overgrown footpath or nature strip, or a request to mow a footpath or nature strip, Council will inspect the site to undertake a risk assessment.
2. The risk assessment will determine whether further action is necessary, based on the following criteria:
 - (a) the grass on the footpath or nature strip is generally higher than 500mm
 - (b) the footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it potentially obstructs traffic visibility
 - (c) the footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it hinders the safe passage of pedestrians along the footpath or nature strip
 - (d) the footpath or nature strip is overgrown to the extent that it is detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood.
3. If the public risk is assessed as being unacceptable, then Council will make appropriate arrangements to undertake a "rough cut" of the area to eliminate the risk.
4. The property owner or occupier will then be contacted to ascertain their intentions regarding the regular mowing of the footpath or nature strip.

5. Council will place the property's footpath or nature strip on its mowing program, subject to a request in writing from the property owner or occupier stating the personal conditions (e.g. health, fitness and/or financial disability) that prevents them from maintaining the footpath or nature strip.
 If a satisfactory response is not received, and the property owner or occupier refuses to mow the area, the frequency of mowing by Council will be on average every 3 months to maintain minimum public amenity and safety standards.
6. Finally, proforma letters (doc ID #7039433 and #7039452) will be forwarded to the relevant property owner, occupier or enquirer, advising them of the Council's stance in relation to the matter.
7. An annual review of all nature strips and footpaths maintained by Council under this policy will be undertaken to validate the need to continue mowing. Property owners or occupiers may be required to submit a letter to Council confirming that personal conditions that prevent them from maintaining the nature strip or footpath have not changed.
8. Road verges, footpaths and nature strips will be cut at Council's discretion and at a frequency appropriate to achieve policy objectives.

Related policies/legislation/other documents:

| DOC ID | DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT NAME |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 7039433 and 7039452 | Administrative | Pro forma letters |